

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's #
99-3

USGS Quad
Whitman

Area

Form #
12

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Town **Hanson**

Place

Address **195 East Washington Street**

Historic Name **Washington Street School**

Use: Present **private school**

Original **public school**

Date **1924**

Source **Dept. of Public Safety Report**

Style/Form **Georgian Revival**

Architect **J.D. Leland & Co.**

Exterior Material:

Foundation **concrete**

Wall/Trim **brick**

Roof **slate**

Outbuildings **none**

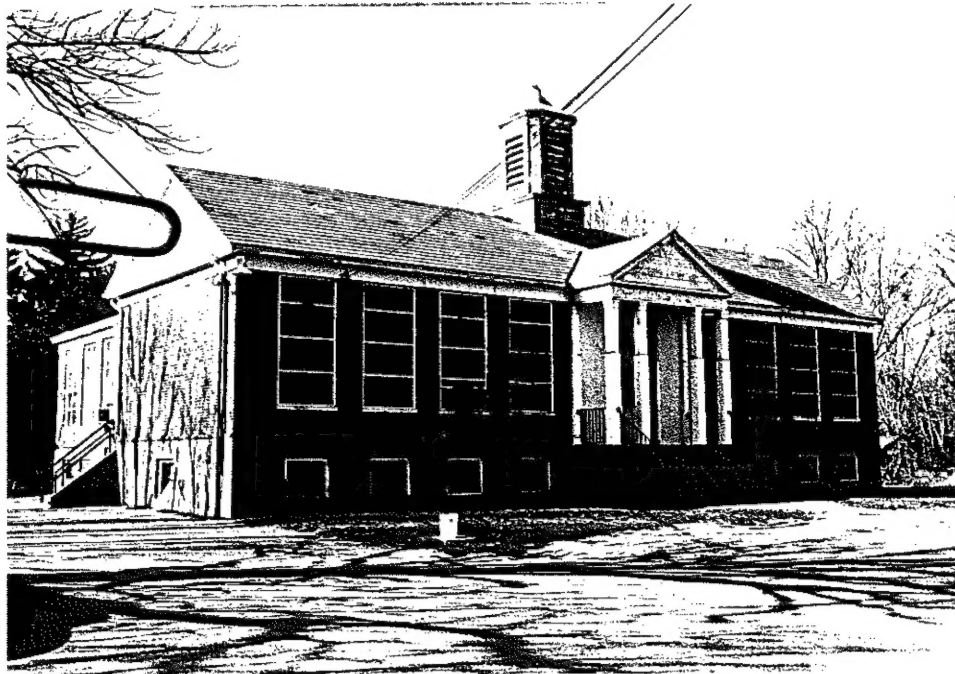
Major Alterations **none**

Condition **good**

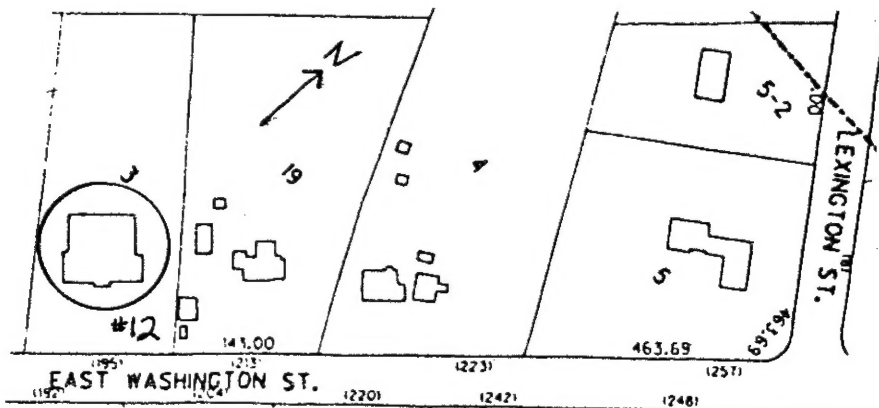
Moved **no**

Acreage **1.16 acres**

Setting **rural/suburban residential**



Sketch Map



Recorded by **Dempsey/Driemeyer**

Organization **Hanson Historical
Commission**

Date **April 1996**

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Washington Street School at 195 East Washington Street is one of two nearly identical grammar schools constructed around the same time in Hanson in the Georgian Revival style (see form no. 7). The simply massed schoolhouse consists of a one-story, nine-bay wide gable block augmented by a wide, one-story rear ell. Both of these masses are elevated on a high foundation to accommodate a full basement story. The symmetrically fenestrated facade has ribbons of four large-scale 12/12 sash windows on either side of the centered entry. A temple-front porch supported by Tuscan posts elaborates the recessed entry that is accessed by a wide stair. The minimally decorated school building also has a wide board entablature and a louvered ventilator centered on the ridge pole. The school building has a moderate set-back like many of the surrounding houses and a large play area in the back.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The presence of schools in Hanson predates its 1820 incorporation, dating back to 1754. At the time of the town's incorporation five school districts were organized: Cushing, Barstow, Lowden, Cox, and Barker. Ten years later the total number had expanded to nine districts. In 1867 the district system was abolished. A three member School Committee became responsible for overseeing the local schools. In 1952 the committee was expanded to five members. Historic maps indicate this property has held a school house since at least 1856. Written sources suggest a school has been on this site since around 1815, but the maps do not confirm that and further research is required to clarify this discrepancy. This school house, built by J.D. Leland & Co. of Boston (about whom nothing is known at this time), was constructed in 1924 at a cost of over \$32,000. It replaced the North Grammar School on this site that dated to the mid-nineteenth century. The old school house was moved to Whitman and converted into a dwelling. This four-room grammar school was in use until 1982. The town sold the building in the mid-1980s and it is now a private school, the Kennedy-Donovan Center.

REFERENCES

- Smith, Plan of Hanson, 1830
- Walling, Map of Hanson, 1856
- Walker, Atlas of Plymouth County, 1879
- Richards, Atlas of Plymouth County, 1903
- White, Houses of Hanson

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Community
Hanson

Area

Property Address
195 E. Washington St.

Form #
12

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Check all that apply:

☒ Individually eligible.

☐ Contributing to a potential district.

☐ Eligible only in a historic district.

☐ Potential historic district.

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Statement of Significance by **Dempsey/Driemeyer.**

The Washington Street School at 195 East Washington Street is a well-preserved example of an early twentieth century grammar school in the Georgian Revival style. The simply massed schoolhouse consists of a one-story, gable block augmented by a sizable one-story rear ell and a full basement story. This school dates to 1924 and is one of two such buildings constructed in Hanson in the 1920s. Its construction demonstrates Hanson's need for consolidated but increased school room space at the time. The Washington Street School meets criteria A and C at the local level. It retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.